

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /016 W
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P R 181455Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6682
INFO USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 0886

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OEXC RO PFOR
SUBJECT: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS: LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA

REF: STATE 036541, STATE 035136, BUCHAREST 0771
CORIDEN/BARNES TELCON, FEB 12

SUMMARY: GOR CANNOT FIND ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR LAPO TRANS-
PORTATION. I BELIEVE THERE ARE SUFFICIENTLY IMPORTANT
POLICY CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED FOR DEPT TO RECONSIDER
POSITION ON CANCELLATION ORCHESTRA'S APPEARANCE HERE. WOULD
APPRECIATE ISSUE BEING REVIEWED JOINTLY BY CU AND EE. END
SUMMARY.

1. GLIGA'S CABLE FROM WASHINGTON FAILED TO MOVE GOR, AS DID
EMBASSY'S LATEST DISCUSSION WITH CSCE OVER WEEKEND. COUNCIL
INFORMED US TUESDAY THAT GOR CANNOT IMPROVE ON ITS LAST OFFER
OF 63,000 LEI (DOLS 5250) FOR LAPO TRANSPORTATION, WHICH
FAILS TO MEET TERMS LAID DOWN IN STATE 035136.

2. WE APPRECIATE CU/ARTS CONCERN FOR ITS FUTURE NEGOTIATING
CREDIBILITY AND, OTHER THINGS BEING EQUAL, FOR PRINCIPLE
THAT NO EXCEPTION SHOULD BE MADE FOR ONE COUNTRY WHEN ALL
OTHERS ARE MEETING ORIGINAL TERMS. BUT OTHER THINGS ARE
NOT EQUAL, AS WE NOTED IN BUCHAREST 0771 AND IN MY CONVERSATION
WITH GUY CORIDEN; THE FACT IS THE POOREST COUNTRY ON TOUR IS BEING
ASKED TO PAY FOR THE LONGEST LEG OF TOUR, AND THE EMBASSY'S OWN
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NEGOTIATING CREDIBILITY IS AT STAKE.

3. THE PROBLEM, AS WE SEE IT, IS THAT CU/ARTS IS FORCING PRIMARILY BILATERAL ISSUE INTO MULTILATERAL MOLD, LETTING ITS UNDERSTANDABLE CONCERN FOR GENERAL NEGOTIATING PRINCIPLES OVER-RIDE EMBASSY'S CONCERN FOR SPECIFIC POLITICAL AND CULTURAL OBJECTIVES. BY CASTING LAPO PROPOSAL IN ESSENTIALLY COMMERCIAL TERMS (MEET OUR PRICE OR WE NIX THE DEAL), WE ARE IN EFFECT LETTING GOR MAKE A DECISION ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS THAT WE SHOULD BE MAKING ON POLITICAL AND PROGRAM GROUNDS.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS IN U.S. INTERESTS TO PRESENT AT LEAST ONE MAJOR PERFORMING ARTS EVENT HERE IN BICENTENNIAL YEAR (SEE CU/ARTS RECOMMENDATIONS THAT "CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS SHOULD PLAY A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN CELEBRATION OF OUR BICENTENNIAL"); THAT ROMANIANS HAVE MADE BEST POSSIBLE OFFER IN VIEW OF GENUINE BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS; THAT WE HAVE GOE FUNDS TO MAKE UP DIFFERENCE AND, HAVING SAID WE WOULD, THAT WE SHOULD COMMIT THEM FOR THAT PURPOSE.

5. EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN EQUIVOCAL POSITION OF SIMULTANEOUSLY PRESSING GOR TO PAY INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION FOR BOTH ITS ATTRACTIONS TO U.S. (BULANDRA AND FOLK GROUP) AND OUR ATTRACTION (LAPO) TO ROMANIA. NOW THAT GOR HAS COME THROUGH ON ROMANIAN PARTICIPATION IN SMITHSONIAN FOLK FESTIVAL (STATE 036541), IT MAKES OUR ACCOMMODATION ON LAPO EVEN MORE DESIRABLE AS QUID PRO QUO.

6. CURRENT U.S. OVERALL POLICY TOWARD EASTERN EUROPE PROVIDES FOR PRIORITY IN OUR DEALINGS WITH ROMANIA. IT SEEMS TO ME REASONABLE THAT THIS BE ONE CASE WHERE WE TRANSLATE THAT POLICY INTO CONCRETE FORM.
BARNES

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